

UNCLASSIFIED

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Page: 1

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04797 231045Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 DHA-02 IO-13 OMB-01  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /091 W  
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R 222045Z JUL 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6441  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
(☒) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 4797

Exemption(s):  
Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full DECLASSIFIED  
( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date Declassify on Reason

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, SCUL, AR  
SUBJECT: MORE PRIESTS ABDUCTED, FOUND MURDERED

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4617

1. TWO PRIESTS, ONE FRENCH, THE OTHER ARGENTINE, WERE FOUND SHOT TO DEATH IN LA RIOJA YESTERDAY (JULY 21). THEY HAD BEEN ABDUCTED SUNDAY NIGHT (JULY 18) FROM A CONVENT NEAR THEIR CHURCH BY TWO MEN IN AN UNMARKED CAR WHO CLAIMED THEY WERE BRINGING THE PRIESTS "DOWNTOWN TO TESTIFY ABOUT SOME PRISONERS." IN AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, THE INTERIOR MINISTRY CONDEMNED THE MURDERS OF THE TWO PRIESTS AND THAT OF THE FIVE PALLOTTINE CHURCHMEN IN BUENOS AIRES TWO WEEKS AGO AND ORDERED A FULL INVESTIGATION.

2. COMMENT. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REACTED CAUTIOUSLY TO THE PALLOTTINE MASS MURDER TWO WEEKS AGO, RESTRAINING AT LEAST ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO GENERAL CONDEMNATIONS OF VIOLENCE (REFTEL). THIS LATEST ABDUCTION AND KILLING, IN THE NOW WELL-KNOWN STYLE OF MASQUERADING "SECURITY FORCES," MAY WELL PUSH THE CHURCH TO A STRONGER, MORE OPEN CRITICISM OF GOA.  
CHAPLIN

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Page: 1

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